In the Specifications

The replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at line 26 of page 2 is as follows:

In the shutdown state, a conventional computer is clearly inoperable and consumes no power or very little if a keyboard-power-on function is enabled. Although energy waste is eliminated, a computer placed in the shutdown state requires a tedious, time-consuming boot process to regain its normal operating function. On the other hand, the standby or the suspend state is provided for exiting the normal operating state temporarily in order to conserve energy. Both states are often referred to as the so-called sleep state in general. U.S. Patent No. 5,530,879 defines that as compared with the standby state, the suspend state conserves extra power by saving the activities of a computer to its hard-disk drive so as to deactivate a conventional computer further. In a newer version of Windows' operating systems, this approach is used in the so-called hibernation process, which requires a slightly longer time to restore the previous activities as compared with a regular boot process. In contrast to the conventional practice, Applicant's pending application Ser. No. 09/293,089 filed on April 16, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,341,354, discloses an energy-conserving motherboard and computer each comprising keep-alive random access memory for saving previous activities thereto and thus rendering the energy-conserving computer instantly accessible from the suspend state. The so-called STR (i.e., Suspend To Ram) motherboards and the so-called IAPCs (i.e., instant accessible PCs or computers) currently produced are respectively the energy-conserving motherboard and computer disclosed in Applicant's pending application Ser. No. 09/293,089, now U.S. Patent No. 6,341,354. While there are some differences in energy savings and quickness in returning to operation between the standby and the suspend states, a conventional computer placed into either state is deemed inoperable because information processing is basically ceased and requires a wakeup process to resume to the normal operating state.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 17 and 18.

Claims 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 29 and 30 have been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) An energy-conserving motherboard having multiple operating functions, comprising:

(a) first power-distributing circuitry actuatable for providing a first operating function, wherein said first power-distributing circuitry is arranged for establishing power connection with main microprocessor circuitry;

(b) second power-distributing circuitry actuatable for providing a second operating function that is not required to activate said main microprocessor circuitry;

(c) third power-distributing circuitry actuatable for providing a standby function that is not required to actuate said first nor said second power-distributing circuitry, wherein said third power-distributing circuitry is arranged for establishing power connection with keep-alive memory circuitry for storing information needed for resuming said first

operating function or said second operating function; and

(d) control means for selectively activating or deactivating said first power-distributing circuitry and said second power-distributing circuitry, so as to selectively provide said first operating function, said second operating function and said standby function, wherein said control means is arranged for having power connection with said third power-distributing circuitry.

15. (Amended) The energy-conserving motherboard of claim 11, wherein said second power-distributing circuitry is arranged for establishing power connection with audio circuitry so as to provide said second operating function for producing audio information without activating said main microprocessor circuitry.

16. (Amended) The energy-conserving motherboard of claim 11, wherein said control means is adapted in a manner for firstly reactivating said second power-distributing circuitry to provide said second operating function when detecting a reactivating signal.

19. (Amended) The energy-conserving motherboard of claim 11, wherein said control means is adapted in a manner for activating said second power-distributing circuitry at a condition selected from the group consisting of when said first power-distributing circuitry is activated or deactivated, when said third power-distributing circuitry is activated or deactivated, and their combinations.

20. (Amended) The energy-conserving motherboard of claim 11, wherein said control means is adapted in a manner for selectively (i) activating said first power-distributing circuitry and said second power-distributing circuitry at the same time to provide a full operating function, (ii) activating said second power-distributing circuitry and said third power-distributing circuitry without activating said first power-distributing circuitry to provide an energy-conserving operating function, (iii) activating only said second power-distributing circuitry to provide an independent energy-conserving operating function, and (iv) activating only said third power-distributing circuitry to provide only said standby function.

23. (Amended) An information-processing apparatus having multiple operating functions, comprising:

(a) a first group of circuitry actuatable for providing a first operating function, wherein said first group of circuitry comprises main microprocessor circuitry;

(b) a second group of circuitry actuatable for providing a second operating function that is not required to activate said main microprocessor circuitry;

(c) a third group of circuitry actuatable for providing a standby function to allow at least said first group of circuitry when deactivated to be reactuatable for providing said first

operating function, wherein said third group of circuitry comprises keep-alive memory circuitry for storing information needed for resuming said first operating function or said second operating function;

(d) power providing means for providing power at least to said first group of circuitry, said second group of circuitry, and said third group of circuitry; and

(e) control means for controlling said power providing means to selectively activate said first group of circuitry, said second group of circuitry, and said third group of circuitry, so as to respectively provide said first operating function, said second operating function, and said standby function.

29. (Amended) The information-processing apparatus of claim 23, wherein said third group of circuitry comprises (i) said keep-alive random access memory for storing task information to be reactivated and (ii) control circuitry responsive to a reactivating signal for restoring said task information, so as to provide said standby function for deactivating and reactivating said task information.

30. (Amended) The information-processing apparatus of claim 23, wherein said third group of circuitry is adapted to comprise said keep-alive random access memory for storing task information to be reactivated and said control means is adapted to comprise standby circuitry responsive to a reactivating signal for restoring said task information, so as to provide said standby function for deactivating and reactivating said task information respectively associated with said first operating function and said second operating function.